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Sixty-five School Teams Gather in Killington to Collaborate

KILLINGTON – More than 400 educators came together at the annual Building Effective Strategies for Teaching (BEST) / Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Summer Institute to learn, share and plan actions for improving the academic and behavioral outcomes of each Vermont learner. The institute, coordinated by the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) and the BEST Team at the University of Vermont, took place over the course of four days from June 23-26 in Killington.

This year's theme was [***Making it Happen! Multi-Tiered System of Supports: Strategies in Action.***](#) Rebecca Holcombe, AOE Secretary of Education, kicked off the week by sharing her professional wisdom on the importance of social/emotional learning in education. The BEST/MTSS Summer Institute is a learning community that invites school teams of educators, family members, community and human services providers to share and learn strategies for improving and strengthening the systems, data and practices within a multi-tiered system of supports.

"The institute provides a great mix of information, time and technical support for school and supervisory union/district teams to work together and to plan," said Sherry Schoenberg, Vermont BEST/PBIS Project Coordinator. "This venue promotes sharing ideas between teams and utilizing expertise from national and state experts who are on site and available to discuss key points presented throughout the week."

Keynote speaker, Dr. Kathleen Lane from the University of Kansas, engaged the audience in the use of universal screening data to understand each learner's academic, behavioral and social needs. Participants also explored principles of adult learning and collaboration through presentations by Kate Larose and Peter Perkins of Global Learning Partners.

"This year more than ever, teams came to the institute with very intentional learning and planning goals," said Carol Randall, AOE Assistant Director – Integrated Support for Learning. "Time and support to analyze data, learn about and select the best practices, and determine actions for implementing these practices are essential to continuously improving Vermont education."

The BEST/MTSS Summer Institute began in 1996. Learn more here:
<http://www.uvm.edu/~cdci/best/>.

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